

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE

## Voting Members:

Tommy Waters, Chair; Heidi Tsuneyoshi, Vice Chair;  
Carol Fukunaga, Joey Manahan, Ron Menor

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Committee Meeting Held  
July 16, 2020

Honorable Ikaika Anderson  
Chair, City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Welfare, which considered  
Resolution 20-147 entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DOUGLAS CHIN TO  
SERVE ON THE POLICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF  
HONOLULU,"

introduced on June 9, 2020, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Resolution is to confirm the appointment of Douglas Chin to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu. The Mayor has requested Council confirmation of the appointment for Mr. Chin through Mayor's Message No. 69, dated June 9, 2020.

A public hearing on the appointment was held on July 8, 2020.

Mr. Chin provided background information about himself and expressed his willingness to serve on the Police Commission, and responded to questions from members.

Mr. Chin indicated his prior experience as Managing Director of the City is a valuable asset in assessing and reviewing the annual budget of the Honolulu Police Department ("HPD"), and his broader management experiences within law enforcement

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## CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON **AUG 19 2020**

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **186**

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Page 2

as First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City, and Attorney General for the State of Hawaii, will enable him to effectively communicate with the Chief of Police and facilitate positive change. Mr. Chin also expressed his sincere belief that systemic reform within the criminal justice system is possible and can happen citing to his work and involvement with various law enforcement task forces and initiatives.

At your Committee's meeting on July 16, 2020, former Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, Steven H. Levinson, and Bryan Mick testified in support of the Resolution.

Your Committee received written testimony in support of the Resolution from the Domestic Violence Action Center, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kauai, and 13 individuals.

No testimony in opposition to the Resolution was received for your July 16, 2020, Committee on Public Safety and Welfare Meeting.

Floor Leader Fukunaga indicated that Mr. Chin, as a Police Commissioner, would be well-positioned to utilize his experience to address issues and opportunities where the City and State can interact more collaboratively.

Chair Emeritus Menor asked Mr. Chin about how active the Police Commission should be in overseeing the HPD. Mr. Chin indicated that he is willing to discuss long-term goals, budget, and disciplinary issues with the Chief of Police. Mr. Chin related that implicit bias exists and must be addressed, and he indicated that he would serve his entire term if appointed to the Police Commission.

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Page 3

Committee Chair Waters asked Mr. Chin to explain his lobbying for private prisons in the past. Mr. Chin indicated that a law firm he previously practiced with, was retained as legal counsel to facilitate conversations with legislators when the State was considering modifications to its prison infrastructure. Mr. Chin indicated that he previously viewed it as providing legal services for a state contractor; however, he now disagrees with the concept of private prisons after becoming aware of the profiteering and other socio-cultural impacts associated with them.

Your Committee considered and approved a proposed hand-carried CD1 version (OCS2020-0695/7/14/2020 10:11 AM) that makes the following amendments:

- A. Revises the first WHEREAS clause to correct the expiration date of Mr. Chin's appointment as December 31, 2024.
- B. Revises the BE IT RESOLVED clause to correct the expiration date of Mr. Chin's appointment as December 31, 2024.
- C. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Your Committee finds that Mr. Chin meets all qualifications required to serve as a member on the Police Commission.

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Page 4

Your Committee on Public Safety and Welfare is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 20-147, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 20-147, CD1. (Ayes: Fukunaga, Menor, Tsuneyoshi, Waters – 4; Noes: None; Excused: Manahan – 1.)

Respectfully submitted,



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Committee Chair

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## CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON AUG 19 2020

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 186



## RESOLUTION

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CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DOUGLAS CHIN TO SERVE ON THE  
POLICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, Section 6-1605, Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (2017 Edition) ("Charter"), establishes a Police Commission ("Commission") consisting of seven members; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 6-1606 sets forth the powers, duties, and functions of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Section 13-103, the members of the Commission are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council ("Council") and serve for staggered five-year terms; and

WHEREAS, by Mayor's Letter, dated June 8, 2020, the Mayor has appointed Douglas Chin to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, if confirmed by the Council, Douglas Chin will replace Loretta Sheehan, who resigned on May 27, 2020, and serve for a term to expire on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 13-103, which applies to the Commission, requires that appointees to all City boards and commissions be registered voters of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City and County of Honolulu has reviewed Douglas Chin's qualifications and character and finds that Douglas Chin qualifies to serve on the Commission and deserves confirmation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it confirms the appointment of Douglas Chin to the Police Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Douglas Chin for his willingness to be considered for public service and actively participate in city government; and



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 20-147, CD1

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**RESOLUTION**

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Police Chief, the Chair of the Police Commission, and Douglas Chin.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ikaika Anderson (br)

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

June 9, 2020  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers